Princeton, New Jersey.
14 May, 1903.

My dear Mr. Fahnestock:-

I have received the interesting petition sent me by yourself and others asking that the University grant the honorary degree of LL.D. to Dr. John Van Duyn. The list of honorary degrees for Commencement is already complete. It is necessary to make it up early in the year, in order that all the necessary preparations may be made for the ceremony, which involve among other things having a hood made for each recipient; but I shall of course take pleasure in laying your petition before the Committee on Honorary Degrees at its next meeting, and I am sure that the Committee will give it their most careful and respectful consideration.

I have often heard of Dr. Van Duyn as a most accomplished and delightful man.

With much regard,

Very sincerely yours,

Woodrow Wilson

Rev. Alfred H. Fahnestock, D.D.

Princeton, New Jersey.
25 May, 1903.

My dear Mr. Robinson:-

I am very much obliged to you for your kind letter of May 22nd, and am glad to explain to you my views with regard to the question of giving the degree of LL.D. to Dr. Van Duyn.

I said that it was too late to act upon the matter this year, because it does not seem to me right that these things should be hurriedly considered at the Commencement meeting of the Board of Trustees. Moreover there are in every such case many things to be considered.

I know the admiration that is felt for Dr. Van Duyn, and I know in part at any rate how well he deserves it for his admirable qualities; and certainly no man has ever been a more loyal alumnus and a more enthusiastic worker for the interests of the University; but I feel, and I am sure that you feel, that our honorary degrees ought to be given only for a sort of distinction which can fairly be called national. I admit that this is a very high standard, but it seems to me that Princeton is one of half a dozen institutions which are distinctly national in character and reputation, and which therefore should hold the highest possible ground with regard to their honorary degrees.

It may be that Dr. Van Duyn's scientific reputation is much wider than I expect it to be, and one of my reasons for wishing to take time to consider the matter is that I wish to be fully informed upon that point. I shall institute inquiries with regard to it, and can assure you that I will give the matter my most careful consideration in the hope that it may turn out to be possible for us to confer upon Dr. Van Duyn the degree of D.Sc. if not the degree of LL.D.

With much regard,

Very sincerely yours,

Woodrow Wilson

The Rev. W. Courtland Robinson.

Princeton, New Jersey.
30 May, 1903.

My dear Sir:-

Allow me to thank you for your letter of May 29th, and to assure you again that I shall give the matter of a degree for Dr. Van Duyn the most careful consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

Woodrow Wilson

Mr. W. Courtland Robinson.

"Hillcrest"
Syracuse

My dear Mrs. Robinson:-

We missed
Mr. Robinson from
his place in Church,
but did not learn until
late that Stewart
had been taken ill.
with Diphtheria.

If this is true, you
have my sympathy.
Aside from the anx

ible. For the sick one, the being shut off from one's friends is a trying experience. Having been quarantined myself some years ago, I have not forgotten the discomforts of the situation.

How I wish I might help you in this time of trouble!

I pray that your dear boy may soon be restored to health. Please tell Stewart that I missed him from Sunday School and that I hope he will be with us again before very long.

It was my intention to call upon you on the first Friday in the New Year, but when the day came I was not very well, so allowed some trifle to keep me at home.

With kindest regards to Mr. Robinson and hoping for a speedy passing of the clouds, I am sincerely,

Nellie D. Tuttle

Jan 14, '03 (Mrs. Jno. F.)

I shall understand why you do not reply.